GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4166
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
CLINICAL TRIALS OF INJECTABLE CONTRACEPTIVE
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been conducting clinical trials of injectable contraceptive , Depo Provera ;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted about the side effects of Depo Provera;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR.ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir, a prospective study with injectable DMPA (Depo Provera) 150 mg was carried out at 10 centres in India under Dr. R.P. Soonawala, Gynaecologist, Mumbai, for post marketing surveillance of DMPA between 1994-1997. The results indicated that the method is safe and effective as a contraceptive. However, pre treatment counselling informing the client about the hormonal effect are essential. Studies also indicate that the common side effects reported with Depo Provera are menstrual irregularities, weight gain, nausea, vomiting. Recently some concerns have been raised regarding hormonal contraception and bone health and risk of STI acquisition. Prolonged use of Depo Provera may result in loss of bone mineral density. WHO statement issued in July, 2005 indicate that since the effect of bone mineral density (BMD) is largely reversible, any life time increase in fracture risk is likely to be small.

(e): Govt. of India has at present no proposal to introduce injectable contraceptive Depo Provera in the National Family Welfare Programme. It is a marketed product and is available only on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.